

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks regarding restriction and election only are responsive to the first Office action. All other amendments, however, were not made in response to the first Office action, but rather were made solely for clarity. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner stated that the claims to Groups I (claims 1-18) and II (claims 19-23) are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121. In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner stated that the claims to Groups I and II are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Examiner stated that there are two distinct inventions; namely, claims 1-18 drawn to a method of inlaying a design into a laminate sheet and bonding the inlaid laminate sheet to a core structure, and claims 19-23 draw to a sports board. The Examiner has stated that these embodiments divide into the following patentably distinct groups of invention:

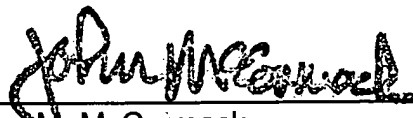
Group I: Claims 1-18 and Group II: Claims 19-23. The Examiner states that the product of claims 19-23 can be made by another and materially different process other than that recited in claims 1-18. Accordingly, the Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the patentably distinct groups of the invention. In response, applicants elect without traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I consisting of claims 1-18. Claims 19-23 have been cancelled without traverse.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on March 1, 2006.



Heidi Dutro